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Docket No. 520.43433X00/NT1393US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Ako SHOSE *et al.*
Serial No. : 10/765,836
Filed : 29 January 2004
For : SURGICAL OPERATION ASSISTANCE SYSTEM
AND SURGICAL OPERATION ASSISTING METHOD
Art Unit : 3737 (Filing Receipt)
Examiner : Unassigned
Conf. No. : 2345

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

POB 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 13 October 2003

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, Applicant hereby submits the attached information for consideration by the Office under 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98 and for printing on the face of any patent issuing hereon, as listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449.

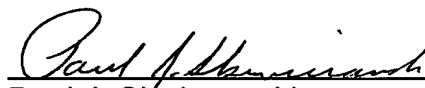
Also attached is a copy of an European Search Report (ESR) issued 13 July 2004 in a foreign application corresponding to the subject US application, as well as copies of all of the references cited therein. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(e), Applicant states that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was first cited in the attached ESR, which was mailed not more than three (3) months prior to the filing date of this IDS.

No separate concise explanation of relevance is submitted for each item of information not in the English language In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(3)

because, as indicated in MPEP §III609A(3), where the information listed is not in the English language but was cited in a Search Report by a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application, the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance can be satisfied by submitting an English-language version of the Search Report which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign Office, which may be an explanation of that portion of the reference that is particularly relevant and to which claims it applies, or merely an "X", "Y", or "A" indication on the Search Report. Therefore, the attached ESR satisfies the requirement under 37 CFR §1.98(3)(i).

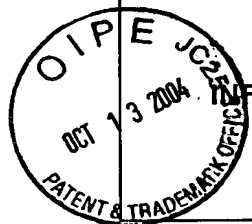
This IDS is being filed prior to mailing of a first Action on the merits in the above-identified application under 37 CFR §1.97(b). In the event that the filing date of this IDS is concurrent with the mailing date of a first Action on the merits in this case, Applicant has submitted the statement under 37 CFR §1.97(e), and therefore, the requirements for entry of this IDS under 37 CFR §1.97(c) also are complete, and entry and consideration of the attached information are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:
PTO-1449
ESR/6 Refs.



Form PTO-1449	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY. DKT. NO. 520.43433X00	SERIAL NO. 10/765,836
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)		APPLICANT Ako SHOSE <i>et al.</i>	
		FILING DATE 29 January 2004	GROUP 3737

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Ex. Initial	Doc. No.	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date
AA	6,468,202 B1	10/22/2002	Irion <i>et al.</i>			
AB	5,836,869 A	11/17/1998	Kudo <i>et al.</i>			
AC	6,033,415 A	03/07/2000	Mittelstadt <i>et al.</i>			
AD						
AE						
AF						
AG						
AH						

U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS

	Application Number	Name	Publication Date
AI	2001/0040991 A1	Asano <i>et al.</i>	11/14/2001
AJ			
AK			
AL			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Doc. No.	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation/Abstract?	
						Yes	No
AM	194 41 500 A1	05/15/1997	DE			Search Report	
AN	0 391 376 A1	10/10/1990	EP				
AO							
AP							
AQ							

OTHER DOCUMENTS

AR	
AS	
AT	
Examiner	Date Considered